

*AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS*

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-24 (Cancelled).

25. (Currently Amended) A positional information management system for a hotel comprising:

a tag attached to an article in the hotel and having a tag integrated circuit (IC) storing a tag identification (ID);

a plurality of proximity detectors located at respective detector locations in the hotel, each detector having a respective detector ID, each proximity detector ~~for~~ detecting the tag ID from the tag IC when the tag is within a respective detection range of the proximity detector, and ~~for~~ transmitting the tag ID that is detected and the detector ID;

a computer network including and providing communication between

a hotel server ~~for managing~~ programmed to manage hotel tasks and ~~includes including a unit for memory~~ recording relationships between a customer, a house card issued to the customer for payment for hotel services, and the tag ID of a tag attached to an article belonging to the customer,

a house card server ~~for account management~~ programmed to manage accounts when a customer employs a house card, issued to and indentifying the customer, in payment for a hotel service, and ~~for authenticating~~ programmed to authenticate a house card that has been issued to a customer,

a plurality of card terminals located at respective terminal locations in the hotel for reading a house card ~~identifying that identifies~~ the customer to whom the house card has been issued, for transacting payment for hotel services through the

house card read and authenticated by the house card server, and for input of a tag ID, and

a positional information management server ~~for receiving, recording, managing~~ programmed to receive, record, manage, and supplying the tag ID detected and the detector ID of the proximity detector detecting the tag ID, from each of the plurality of proximity detectors, as pairs of the tag ID detected and the detector ID, and time at which the respective proximity detector detected the tag ID, and ~~for specifying position to specify location~~ of the article based upon detection of the tag ID and the detector ID of the proximity detector detecting the tag ID, wherein the positional information management server ~~includes a unit for searching~~ is programmed to search for the ~~position~~ location of the article in response to reading of a house card by one of the card terminals, authentication of the house card by the hotel server, and input to the card terminal of the tag ID associated with the house card read, and ~~a unit for sending~~ is programmed to send results of the ~~searching~~ search to the card terminal reading the house card.

26. (Previously Presented) The positional information management system according to Claim 25, wherein the tag comprises a detachable sticker.

27. (Currently Amended) The positional information management system according to Claim 25, wherein the positional information management server ~~includes a unit for producing~~ is programmed to produce a movement history of the article from ~~positions~~ locations of the article based on the detector IDs of the proximity detectors that have detected the tag ID, and the time of detection.

28. (Currently Amended) The positional information management system according to Claim 25, wherein ~~each of the detectors has a respective specific range in which the detector detects the tag ID, and~~ the positional information management

system detects movement of the article based on the ~~specific~~ respective detection ranges and the tag ID detected in the ~~respective~~ specific detection ranges.

29. (Currently Amended) The positional information management system according to Claim 25, wherein the positional information management server ~~includes a unit for determining an~~ is programmed to determine a detection area defined by at least one of the proximity detectors and ~~for determining to determine~~ whether the article is in the area, based on the detector ID and the tag IDs detected in the area.

30. (Currently Amended) The positional information management system according to Claim 29, wherein the positional information management server ~~includes a unit for defining~~ is programmed to define the area as a restricted area and ~~for managing~~ is programmed to manage security by generating an alarm or by setting a flag when the article is in the restricted area.

31. (Currently Amended) The positional information management system according to ~~claim~~ Claim 25, wherein the ~~unit for recording records~~ hotel server is programmed to record a relationship between name of the customer to whom a house card has been issued and the tag ID of the article belonging to the customer and the ~~unit for searching~~ positional information management server is programmed to search for the ~~position~~ location of the article ~~searches~~ in response to input of the name of the customer into the card terminal.

32. (New) The positional information management system according to Claim 25, wherein,

based on a tag ID and a room number of a customer that are transmitted from the positional information management server, the hotel server adds the tag ID to the customer information and records the tag ID in the memory of the hotel server, and

the tag in which the tag ID has been set is issued to the customer at a front desk terminal.

33. (New) The positional information management system according to Claim 25 wherein, when a customer requests settlement, in settling the customer's account, the hotel server instructs the positional information management server to erase data concerning the tag ID of the customer.

34. (New) The positional information management system according to Claim 33 wherein, in response to an instruction from the hotel server to erase the data concerning the tag ID of the customer, the positional information management server erases data concerning previous use of the tag having the tag ID of the customer and updates current use of the tag ID of the customer.